

From: [Congressman John Garamendi](#)
To: [Kent Smith](#)
Subject: Medicare's 50th Birthday
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2015 5:19:30 PM

50th Celebration Medicare



Dear Friends,

For those of us lucky enough to reach it, the big 5-0 is a monumental milestone in our lives. Today, we celebrate a 50th birthday that has literally transformed millions of lives. Happy 50th birthday Medicare! And what a happy occasion it is.

I remember the dark days before Medicare. When I was a young kid on my family's ranch, my father took me to the county hospital in Calaveras County where uninsured seniors were housed. It was a horrifying scene that will forever be stitched into my memory. Seniors, just as deserving of dignity and respect as my grandparents, were robbed of basic care for treatable ailments. They were just left there to die. We can't go back!

[I will always be a champion for Medicare in Congress, and if you feel the same, please consider a small contribution today.](#)

Today, more than 52 million Americans are able to receive the Medicare guarantee. All of us know that no matter what else happens, if we make it to our golden years, we will have good and reliable health coverage.

Medicare is one of our cornerstone promises that should make every American proud. When it was signed, a third of seniors lived in poverty. Today, that number has dropped to 1 in 10. Medicare has lifted millions of us out of desperate circumstances. As a former Insurance Commissioner, I know how valuable Medicare is to our seniors.

Unfortunately, there are powerful voices in our country that want to take Medicare away. In Congress, the Republican majority has voted multiple times to end Medicare as we know it, replacing the Medicare guarantee with an underfunded coupon for private insurance. On the presidential trail, Jeb Bush has even called for "phasing out" Medicare! These are scary and dangerous ideas, and so long as I have a platform, I will stand in strong defense of Medicare.

I'm celebrating 50 great years today, but tomorrow, I will continue the fight to preserve this lifesaving program that is under constant attack from people who should know better. I will always resist efforts to cut benefits and stand strong on the need to reduce prescription drug costs. I'm honored to know you have my back. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Garamendi



Congressman John Garamendi



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